to better ties with India" appearing in the "The Economic Times", New Delhi dated the 3rd December, 1991;

(b) whether his attention has also been invited to another news item captioned "Captured military officer admits Pakistan training militants" appearing in "The Business and Political Observer", New Delhi dated the 3rd December, 1991;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto ; and

(d) whether any formula for Kashmir is being evolved keeping in view the fact that the 1948 U.N. Resolutions on Kashmir that supported plebiscite in the Valley are no longer valid under the present changed circumstances and more so after the signing of the Shimla Pact?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Pakistan's support to terrorism in Punjab and J & K, its attempts to interfere in our internal affairs and internationalise the Kashmir issue in violation of the Simla Agreement impede normalisation of relations. Its clandestine pursuit of a weapons oriented nuclear programme adversely affects mutual confidence building. Government hope Pakistan will abandon its negative approach and join us in the endeavour to establish a tension free and good neighbourly relationship, in the interest of the peoples of the two countries and of peace and stability in the region.

(d) Government are committed to the Simla Agreement under which all differences with Pakistan are to be resolved bilaterally through peaceful negotiations. In Jammu and Kashmir, the issue that remains to be resolved is the vacation by Pakistan of territory illegally occupied by it.

Passport office building at Ahmedabad

2541. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to construct its own Passport Office building at Ahmedabad;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have purchased the land to construct the building;

(c) what is the amount of expenditure that has already been incurred on land and other things concerning proposed construction of passport office at Ahmedabad; and

(d) by when the passport office building will be constructed and completed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 79,31,637/- has so far been incurred on the purchase of land, construction of compound wall and on soil investigation work.

(d) Preliminary estimates prepared by Central Public Works Department for the construction project are being examined. Once these have been approved, it is understood that it will take about 33 months to complete construction of the project.

Reforming the foreign service

2542. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article in Financial Express dated November 28, 1991 titled "Reforming the foreign service";

(b) what is Government's reaction to the need to emphasise the trust on economic matters;

(c) what steps are being taken in this regard; and

(d) what steps are being taken to orient middle level officers to become familiar with economic matters?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Following the introduction of new economic policies, instructions have been issued to our Missions to give maximum priority to economic issues. The Missions have been asked to undertake a purposeful drive to increase exports from India, attract direct foreign investment and to secure access to high technology. Detailed information on the Government's new economic policies and procedures has been made available to the Missions. They have also been provided with a special 'media package' to enable them to project the new policies. A special training programme is also being organised by our Foreign

Service Training Institute in collaboration with other concerned Departments of the Government of India, and various Chambers of Commerce and Industries for senior and middle level officials in our Missions who are engaged in economic and commercial work.

Chinese Premier's visit to India

2543. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chinese Premier has visited the country recently ;

(b) whether some issues of bilateral relations have been discussed ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) The Chinese Premier visited India at the invitation of the Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao from December 11 to 16, 1991.

(b) and (c) Bilateral issues including the boundary question and functional cooperation in various areas of mutual interest were discussed between the two sides.

Both sides reiterated that efforts would be made to arrive at an early and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question through friendly consultations. The two sides also agreed to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas pending a final settlement of the boundary question.

The two sides positively appraised cooperation in trade, culture, science & technology, and agreed to expand cooperation in agriculture, energy, public health and education.

An Agreement on the re-establishment of Consulates General in Shanghai and Bombay, a Consular Convention, a Memorandum on the Resumption of Border Trade, a Trade Protocol for 1992, and a Memorandum of Cooperation in the Peaceful Applications of Outer Space Sciences and Technology were signed during the visit of the Chinese Premier to India.

Functions of U.N. Working Group

2544. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has been nominated as Chairman of U.N. Working Group under U.N. Disarmament Conference ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) what shall be the tenure of this office; and

(d) what will be functions as Chairman of U.N. Working Group dealing with nuclear disarmament?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) India has been nominated as Chairman of the Working Group on the item "process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security with the objective of elimination of nuclear weapons" at the next substantive session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission to be held in New York from April 20 to May 11, 1992.

(d) As Chairman, India's representative will preside over the meetings of the Working Group.

Hate wave against India in U.K.

2545. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any hate wave against Indians in U.K. as reported in the Indian Express 25th September, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up the issue with the U.K. Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and outcome therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) No, Sir. There is no hate wave against Indians in U.K.

(b) to (d) do not arise.

Response from French Industrialists

2546. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any positive response from the French industrialists for the invitation given to them by the Prime Minister to participate in the fields of harnessing solar energy for agriculture and industries in India ; and